Violation of provisions of customs act by Betamex electronics and Pythagoras Systems

1095. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Betamex Electronics and Pythagoras Systems or either of them was involved in offences under the Customs Act in respect of imports made by them at Madras Airport;

(b) whether the investigations led to the issuance of detention orders under the COFEPOSA against one Suresh and one Palikal connected with the said two companies;

(c) whether these orders were actually served on or around 3rd May, 1988;

(d) whether these orders were revoked on or around 10th May, 1988;

(e) what were the reasons for the revocation of these orders and what was the nature of representation on the basis of which the orders of revocation were made;

(f) whether the proposal for revocation was supported by the authority which had originally proposed the detention;

(g) what has happened subsequently to the proceedings arising out of the original acts of smuggling; and

(h) what was the nature of the smuggling alleged and the extent of evasion of duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tokolai Research Centre, Assam

1096. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Project on Instant Tea undertaken by Government through Tokolai Research Centre, Assam was a complete success for its findings being very fruitful;

(b) if so, what kind of incentive Government offered to the personnel involved in the Research Project for their greater devotion in similar project in future;

(c) whether it is a fact that the findings of the Research Project were sold to a private company;

(d) if so, what is the name of the company and what was the nature of the financial gain of the Government through this sale;

(e) whether Government have set pre-conditions in the sale in respect of appointments of those personnel involved in the research of instant tea in Assam; and

(f) if so, what is the total number of personnel drawn from the Instant Tea Research Project in Assam for appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One of the conditions for transfer of the plant and technology by the Tea Board was that all personnel attached with the Instant tea project would be retained by the new entrepreneur This has been complied with by the entrepreneur.

(c) to (f) The plant and technology was transferred to M/s. Goodricke Group Ltd., Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 26 lakhs with the pre-condition that all personnel involved in the research would be retained on remuneration not lower than that they were drawing last. All the eight personnel were re-employed by the new entrepreneur.